Steps for Making SGSY more Effective

2546. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the objective of the Swamajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY);

(b) whether these objectives have been fulfilled till date;

(c) if so, the number of employment provided to the rural population through this scheme till date; and

(d) the details of steps being taken to make this scheme more effective and productive?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) The objective of the Swamajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is to bring the assisted poor families (swarozgaris) above the poverty line in three yean by providing them income-generating assets through a mix of bank credit and government subsidy. The assisted families, may be individuals or groups (Self Help Groups). However, the emphasis under the Scheme will be on Group Approach.

(b) The SGSY is an on-going and process oriented Scheme. It may be, therefore, too early to say that objectives of the Scheme have been fulfilled. The fact that 6.S8 lakhs Self Help Groups (SGHs) have been formed all over the Country, since inception of the Scheme, shows that the Scheme is progressing satisfactorily and on expected lines.

(c) Since inception of the Scheme, till date, 22.76 lakhs Swarozgaries have been assisted for various economic activities with a total investment of Rs. 4290.79 Crores, involving Rs. 1424.19 Crores, as Subsidy and Rs. 2866.60 Crores as Credit from Banks.

(d) Various steps being taken by the Ministry to make this Scheme more effective and productive includes, regular sensitisation of District and Field level functionaries and bankers, promotion of marketing of the SGSY products by participating in State, National and International exhibitions, regular inspection and verification of

the Assets by Area officers under the Area officers Scheme, monitoring of the progress through Monthly, Quarterly, Half-yearly and Annual Periodical Reports, review of the Scheme by the Central level Coordination Committee and Performance Review Committee, Evaluation studies through reputed institutions/organisations, concurrent evaluations etc. An important step taken in this regard recently was holding of the National Conference on "Self Help Group Movement in the Country and the SGSY" at National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad. The participants in the Conference included several Chief Ministers, Ministers of Rural Development from States, Senior Officials from Reserve Bank of India, NABARD, concerned Ministries, Departments and other agencies.

Special Advisory Group to Guide on Water Conservation

2547. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has appointed a Special Advisory Group to guide the people on water conservation methods, rainwater harvesting, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Ministry to give impetus to the watershed development programme, with a particular reference to Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) and (b) The matter is under active consideration.

(c) In order to give impetus to the Watershed Development Programme, the coverage under the three main programmes namely Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) is being increased year after year. The